

# SMC alum brings Hollywood to Rheem Theatre

By Vera Kochan

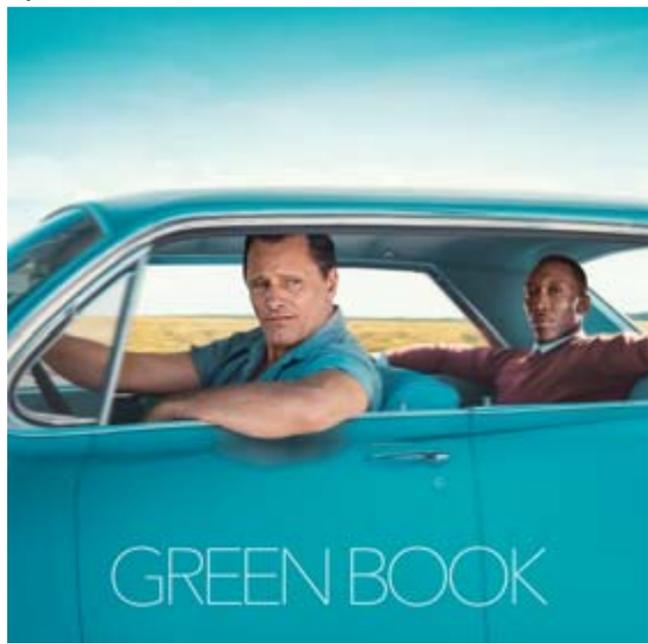


Photo provided

Saint Mary's College alumnus, actor Mahershala Ali, who won the Best Supporting Actor Oscar for his performance in the 2017 Academy Award Best Picture winner, "Moonlight," is returning to Moraga to promote his new film, "Green Book," which is based on a true story.

In "Green Book" Ali portrays a jazz pianist on a concert tour of the Deep South during the 1960s. With his white chauffeur, played by Viggo Mortensen, they use the Green Book as a guide for motels and restaurants that welcomed blacks.

A special advance screening of "Green Book" will be held on Thursday, Oct. 25 at the Rheem Theatre, with the proceeds benefiting the Moonlight Scholarship (established in 2017 with inspiration from Ali) for students in the SMC

High Potential Program.

The High Potential Program's mission is to provide access to higher education for underrepresented students. It seeks to foster success for first generation and/or low-income scholars transitioning from high school to college.

The Moonlight Scholarship is funded through private donations and provides financial support for students in the HP program. To date, 17 scholars have benefited from this foundation.

The movie will begin at 5:30 p.m., and a conversation with Ali, Director Peter Farrelly, and Producer Jim Burke will immediately follow the screening.

To RSVP for the Green Book Special Advanced Screening, visit [www.stmarys-ca.edu/greenbook](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/greenbook).

# Orinda Books partners with Paw Fund for a pet-friendly day

By Kara Navolio



Irma, a chihuahua/terrier mix nicknamed Squirmly, is one of the adorable pups available for adoption. Photo Kara Navolio

Over 100 residents stopped by Orinda Books on Oct. 7 to cuddle kittens and play with pups for a Paw Fund adoption event. Forty hopeful pet lovers turned in applications, and several adoptions were completed that day. Pet lovers could also find a large selection of pet-themed books for sale with a portion of the proceeds donated to the nonprofit organization.

Paw Fund has a unique mission compared to other nonprofits supporting pets. Paw Fund's main goal is to provide free vet care to homeless and low-income pet owners. "Our mission," stated Jill Posener, "is to help people help their pets." The organization, founded in 2011, offers a monthly clinic in Berkeley where pet owners can get minor health issues addressed for free. They often see over 150 pets at these clinics where they offer vaccines, treat minor conditions, and spay and neuter pets. They have a vet on staff, but the organization is primarily run by a regular crew of 30 volunteers.

They even have an outreach group that visits homeless encampments, bringing their services to populations who have no transportation. "It empowers people

when they can get the proper care for their animals," added Posener. These animals, in turn, offer emotional support to people who might really need it.

In some situations, their clients might have to surrender their pets or find homes for litters. These are the pets that are offered for adoption at Paw Fund Adoption events. Their clients never have to worry that these animals would be euthanized; they are all cared for in foster homes until permanent homes can be found.

While Paw Fund serves the Berkeley area, they partner with similar organizations that also offer free or low cost clinics like theirs in Oakland (PALS East Bay) and Contra Costa County (Furry Friends Pet Relief).

On some occasions when pets might need a more extensive procedure they are able to partner with Animal Rescue Foundation and other vets for services.

A link on the Paw Fund website ([www.pawfund.org](http://www.pawfund.org)) will lead you to Pet Finder where their adoptable pets are featured. The next adoption event is Oct. 20 at Holistic Hound in Berkeley.

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